

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 16 and 23 have been amended. Claim 1-32 are pending.

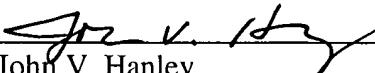
In the outstanding Office action dated May 13, 2003, claims 16-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Edoga (U.S. 5,746,766). In so rejecting the claims, items 609 and 611 of FIG. 16 of the Edoga reference were relied upon as a teaching of the bulbous tails recited in each of claims 16-20 and 23. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Edoga does not teach the bulbous tails shown and described in the present application. Nevertheless, independent claims 16 and 23 have been amended to recite a prosthesis including bulbous tails embodying a continuous surface that has a width greater than a width of struts of the prosthesis to clearly distinguish the claims from the cited art. As such, it is believed that claims 16-20 and 23 define subject matter which is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555; Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
21915.1